

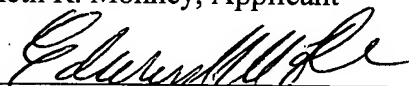
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed the Office communication and has made amendments to the claims in response thereto.

Subsequent to the receipt of the office action the Applicant's attorney discussed the rejection with the examiner and possible amendments that might overcome same. From the conversation it was determined that more specificity in describing the tension release fastener would be necessary to overcome the snap fastener of Griffin, which did have a male-female component. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to specify that the tension release fastener includes two elongated components, one having a male end and the other a female recess for interlocking. This amendment should be sufficient to read around the use of the snaps or Velcro hook and loop fastening material as disclosed in the Griffin patent.

Should the examiner believe this amendment is not sufficient to overcome the prior references, Applicant's attorney would welcome any suggestions or comments the examiner may have as to further amendments which would make this application allowable.

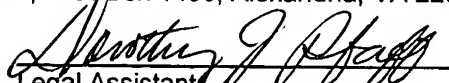
Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Response and Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service by first class mail on the 15th day of September, 2004, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment - NO FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Legal Assistant